

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED BY SENATE

Minutes of a Meeting of the Senate of Simon Fraser University held on  
Monday, January 9, 2006 at 5:30 pm in Room 3210 WMC

Open Session

Present:

Stevenson, Michael, President and Chair of Senate

Black, Sam  
Budd, James  
Dickinson, John  
Dickinson, Peter  
Easton, Stephen  
Easter, Martin  
Fizzell, Maureen  
Gordon, Irene  
Harder, Derrick  
Haunerland, Norbert  
Heift, Trude (representing J. Driver)  
~~Horsman, Paul~~  
Hunsdale, Shawn  
Joffres, Michel  
Krane, Bill  
LaBrie, John  
Lewis, Brian  
Love, Ernie  
MacKenzie, Christine  
MacLean, David  
Owen, Brian (representing L. Copeland)  
Percival, Colin  
Percival, Paul  
Pierce, John  
Plischke, Michael  
Schellenberg, Betty  
Shaker, Paul  
Smith, Don  
Tilley, Kevin  
Uhlmann, Sasha  
Warner, D'Arcy  
Waterhouse, John  
Weeks, Daniel  
Wong, Josephine  
Woodbury, Robert  
Zandvliet, David

Heath, Ron, Registrar  
Watt, Alison, Director, University Secretariat  
Grant, Bobbie, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Apaak, Clement  
Breden, Felix  
Brennand, Tracy  
Caufield, Sarah  
Corbett, Kitty  
Delgrande, James  
Fleming-Saraceno, David  
Gordon, Robert  
Grimmett, Peter  
Halpern, Erica  
Hayes, Michael  
Honda, Barry  
Javed, Wasseem  
Louie, Brandt  
Magee, Sean  
McArthur, James  
Pinto, Mario  
Scott, Jamie  
van Baarsen, Amanda  
Williams, Peter

In attendance:

Anderson, Gail  
Davison, Allan  
Kawasaki, Tsuyoshi  
MacAlister, David  
Perry, Tom  
Taboada, Maite

1. Approval of the Agenda

Following the withdrawal of agenda item 6.A.vi - Senate paper S.06-6 – Cohort Special Arrangements Program – Master of Global Health, and the addition of an item under Other Business – Search Committee for the Associate Vice-President, Students and International, the Agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Open Session of December 5, 2005

The Minutes were approved as distributed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

4. Report of the Chair

The Chair reported that a series of questions regarding issues affecting post-secondary education had been sent by AUCC to all parties in the Federal election. Detailed replies are available on the web site of AUCC. In general, responses suggest that all parties take higher education very seriously and support improvements in funding. The Chair also reported that he had been in touch with all candidates running in the Lower Mainland with respect to the same issues. Local candidates were provided background information with an invitation to contact him if they wished to pursue any of the issues in detail.

The Chair reported that detailed discussions about funding are currently taking place with the Provincial Government. The Perrin Assessment and Review of the last funding letters to universities resulted in recommendations similar to those of the TUPC. The Ministry and Treasury Board have authorized adjustments that should provide universities some short-term relief this year. Although recommendations for continuing and sustained funding are still unknown, there appears to be a commitment to follow through on the Accessibility Plan to add 25,000 seats in higher education, and there is acknowledgement that proper funding for this expansion needs to be in place. Detailed budget consultations within the university will begin this month and funding letters are expected to be received following the next budget.

In a report on the activities of the Board of Governors, the Chair advised that the Board had approved the Ethical Procurement Policy.

5. Question Period

In response to a question as to whether the TUPC report referred to by the Chair was available, the Chair indicated that since the report was advice to the Minister there may be issues around confidentiality, but it was suggested that the Vice-President Finance and Administration be contacted in this regard.

6. Reports of Committees

A) Senate Committee on University Priorities

- i) Paper S.06-1 – Extended Minor in the Asia-Canada Program and deletion of the Asia-Canada Minor

Motion 1

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for an Extended Minor in the Asia-Canada program, in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

T. Kawasaki, Political Science/Humanities, and T. Perry, Associate Dean, were in attendance in order to respond to questions.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal to delete the Asia-Canada Minor program in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- ii) Paper S.06-2 – Collaborative Major in First Nations Studies between SFU and Thompson Rivers University, and Post Baccalaureate Diploma in First Nations Studies

Motion 1

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Collaborative Major in First Nations Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, between SFU (Kamloops) and Thompson Rivers University”

T. Perry, Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, was in attendance in order to respond to questions.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in First Nations Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- iii) Paper S.06-3 – Minor in Legal Studies, and Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Legal Studies

Motion 1

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Minor in Legal Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

G. Anderson and D. MacAlister from the School of Criminology were in attendance.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Post Baccalaureate Diploma in Legal Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- iv) Paper S.06-4 Joint Major in Computational Linguistics in the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences and Applied Sciences

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by S. Hunsdale

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Joint Major in Computational Linguistics in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Applied Sciences”.

M. Taboada, Department of Linguistics, was in attendance.

A question arose with respect to the Topics in Linguistics courses on page 4 concerning how it would be decided whether these courses would be “suitable” for this program and what happened if a suitable topic was not offered. Senate was advised that the suitability

of topics would be decided by the Department, and even if neither of these courses were offered with suitable topics, the Department offers computational content courses on a regular basis that would provide options to students to fit their requirements.

A concern was raised that this is a very specialized area that most students would be unaware of when entering the University and they might lack adequate preparation. M. Taboada noted that different entry levels into the program were anticipated, and the Department felt that first and second year students would have no difficulty entering the program and fulfilling the requirements. It was noted that Cognitive Science is another program that students become acquainted with in their first and second years, and this program was quite popular with good enrolment. In response to a question about whether Computational Linguistics would draw enrolments away from Cognitive Science, Senate was advised that although there is some overlap in requirements and there is a question as to whether students would be allowed to major in both programs, the Department did not feel that the programs would interfere with each other.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

v) Paper S.06-5 – Graduate Diploma in Global Health

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by D. MacLean

“that Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Graduate Diploma in Global Health in the Faculty of Health Sciences”

A. Davison, Faculty of Health Sciences, and D. MacLean, Senator and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences were available to respond to questions.

With reference to the statement on page 2 concerning budgetary discussions being in progress, Senate was advised that full budgetary discussions have now been concluded.

It was noted that the content of GLOH 510 might be challenging for students who would be returning to University after working for some time in the health field, and a question arose as to whether there were plans to provide tutorial support for this course. Senate was advised that the course was fairly basic and unlikely to require that kind of support. However, if this problem arose the Faculty would take steps to address it.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

vi) Paper S.06-6 – Cohort Special Arrangements Program – Master of Global Health

The above-noted paper was withdrawn from the Agenda.

- vii) Paper S.06-7 – Merck Frosst Chair in Statistics and Information Sciences for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases

Moved by J. Waterhouse, seconded by D. MacLean

“that Senate approve the terms of reference for the Merck Frosst Chair in Statistics and Information Sciences of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases in the Faculty of Health Sciences”

A senator asked whether there would be further discussion of this item at the Board, and was advised by the Chair that there would be further consideration of the terms of reference since they also require the approval of the Board of Governors.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

- B) Senate Committee on Continuing Studies

- i) Paper S.06-8 – Annual Report (For Information)

J. LaBrie, Senator and Dean of Continuing Studies was available to respond to questions.

The Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Continuing Studies was received by Senate for information without discussion.

- C) Senate Graduate Studies Committee

- i) Paper S.06-9 – Faculty of Education – Graduate Curriculum Revisions (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, acting under delegated authority, approved a change in prerequisite for EDUC 876 and a minor Calendar change concerning the composition of the Ed.D. supervisory committee.

- D) Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

- i) Paper S.06-10 – Change to Admission Requirements to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Motion 1

Moved by C. MacKenzie, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate approve a change to the requirements for admission to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) such that effective Fall 2006, students currently enrolled in other Faculties at SFU must have a GPA of 2.0 or greater to enter the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences”

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 2

Moved by C. MacKenzie, seconded by I. Gordon

“that Senate approve a change to the requirements for admission to FASS so that effective immediately, if a student withdraws or is required to withdraw, and if the student is, at that time, in the FASS, and if that student is subsequently readmitted to the University, s/he shall be permitted to re-enter FASS, even though their SFU CGPA is less than 2.00”

After various questions were posed about the rationale for this policy a lengthy discussion ensued. Several senators provided information about this matter, indicating that it was intended for those who had been required to withdraw and their GPA was below 2.0. In most cases, these students attend another institution and do better in their academic work but when they return to SFU their original GPA is still below 2.0. By this motion, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences was prepared to provide a mechanism for FASS students to seek readmission to the University but was not prepared to accept students who had been required to withdraw from other programs. Students of other Faculties would be in a different situation, such as Business Administration students who are required to maintain a 2.25 CGPA. A Business student whose grades drops below 2.0 and is required to withdraw, could not now be re-admitted to the University in FASS.

Another senator asked whether a student who is re-admitted under these conditions would be put immediately back on academic probation, and the Registrar indicated that the student would be on academic probation until such time as his/her CGPA improves and is above 2.0.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion 3

Moved by C. MacKenzie, seconded by J. Pierce

“that Senate approve a change to the requirements for admission to FASS so that effective immediately, students in Science and Tech One may not transfer into the FASS until the end of the second semester following their admission to the Science One or Tech One programs”

Reference was made to the statement in the rationale for this motion that implied problems in the Surrey programs, and a Senator expressed the opinion that it might be better to address that issue rather than approve the current motion. Senate was advised that there had been an unprecedented situation in which students who were not qualified to be admitted to other programs had been admitted into the Tech One program, and then

had transferred into FASS after only one semester. The proposal is designed to address this situation and preserve the integrity of the cohort nature of the Surrey programs.

Brief discussion followed with respect to admission requirements for Surrey and whether similar restrictions were being considered for the Surrey Explorations program. It was noted that both Science One and the Surrey Explorations programs had the same admission standards as other programs on the Burnaby campus. A question arose as to why FASS was the only Faculty included in the motion, since presumably students could transfer into other Faculties in the same way. Senate was advised that the other Faculties have not experienced any problems, and if problems arose in the future they would be addressed on a Faculty by Faculty basis.

The question was called, and a vote taken.

MOTION CARRIED

b) Paper S.06-11 – Undergraduate Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved new courses, and minor changes in programs and requirements in the following departments/programs: Archaeology, Chinese Studies, Cognitive Science, Contemporary Arts, Economics, English, French, Geography, History, Latin American Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sustainable Community Development. SCUS also approved, under delegated authority, certified Writing, Quantitative and Breadth courses in a variety of departments/programs; and changes to FASS breadth requirements effective Fall 2006.

Considerable discussion took place with respect to what impact the requirement of an additional 12 credit hours of breadth would have on a student whose major was outside of Arts but was doing an extended minor in Arts. It was noted that FASS already had a requirement of 30 credits of breadth outside their discipline and the intent of the change was to specify that 18 credit hours is to be designated breadth and the remaining 12 credit hours would be general breadth. Furthermore, the Registrar explained that a student completing a major in Science with an extended minor in Arts, must meet the Science requirements for the major, but would not be subject to the 30 credit hours of breadth for students majoring in FASS. It was stressed that the change did not have a negative impact on students doing extended minors.

The Chair suggested that the Registrar's clarification be included in the minutes to provide an understanding of the change and suggested that the Committee might want to review the wording so that the legislation was clearly understood by students and faculty.

Referring to item g. Department of English, Senate was advised that the credit hours for ENGL 399 should be 3 instead of 4. The Chair noted the change and advised that the correction would be made.

ii) Faculty of Business Administration  
Paper S.06-12 – Prerequisite changes to existing courses (For Information)

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved prerequisite changes for BUS 237, 251, and 272.

iii) Paper S.06-13 - Enrolment Priority System

Senate received information that the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies, acting under delegated authority, approved changes to the enrolment priority system for new transfer students for a three semester trial period beginning Spring 2006. The change will give new transfer students an enrolment appointment that is approximately the same as that of continuing students with 60 credits. Senate was advised that students transferring into SFU currently had little registration priority in their first semester and this change would ensure they would be treated more fairly.

E) Senate Nominating Committee

i) Paper S.06-14 – Elections

Senate was advised that one nomination had been received and Derrick Harder was elected by acclamation to the position on the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules. There were no other nominations. Vacancies will be carried forward to the next meeting.

7. Other Business

J. Waterhouse advised Senate that the newly created position of Associate Vice-President, Students and International had been filled on an acting basis until August 31, 2006, and in order to facilitate a timely search, the permission of Senate was requested to move ahead with the search process. The search process would be governed by the existing policy GP 29 Search Committees for Vice-Presidents and Associate Vice-Presidents and the proposed composition of the search committee would be similar to other Associate Vice-President positions. If Senate had concerns with the proposed composition, the Vice-President, Academic stated he would be prepared to postpone this item to the next meeting of Senate when a revision to GP 29 could be brought forward.

In response to a question as to whether the election of students would be conducted concurrent with the regular student elections this semester, Senate was advised that if the process was to go ahead, the election process would start immediately.

A Student Senator noted that students were usually selected by the Student Society rather than elected by the student population at large, and an inquiry was made as to why the process for student representation on this committee differed. A further question was raised as to which other committees required elections. The Vice-President, Academic advised that the process for student representation appeared to depend on the position being searched, and although he did not have detailed information on other committees' memberships at hand, he would be pleased to provide the information at a later date.

It was pointed out that normally Senate voted on changes to policy such as this, and a clarification was requested as to why this was being presented to Senate for information. Senate was advised that permission was being sought to proceed with establishing the committee so that a timely search could be undertaken, and that a motion would be brought to Senate to approve the changes in policy at a later date. Following brief discussion, the Chair reiterated that the search process would proceed with a call for nominations, and that the appropriate adjustments in policy would be brought forward to Senate at the next meeting.

8. Information

The date of the next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, February 6, 2006.

Open Session adjourned at 6:35 pm and Senate moved directly into Closed Session.

Alison Watt, Director, University Secretariat